

**Security Council**

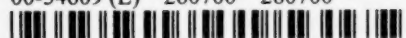
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**Letter dated 19 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Argentine delegation in February 2000. This document was prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the note by the President of the Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451), and after consultations with its members.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Luis E. Cappagli
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Argentina (February 2000)

In accordance with the agreement reached between the members of the Security Council in the note by the President dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451), this assessment has been prepared under the responsibility of the Council President for February 2000, Ambassador Arnaldo Listre, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic, and covers the Council's activities during that month.

As in the preceding two months, questions relating to Africa continued to occupy a preponderant place on the Council's agenda. One such matter, the expansion of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), decided on by resolution 1291 (2000), required a major negotiation effort on the part of Council members.

At its 4100th meeting on 9 February, the Council held a public meeting on the protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones, at which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Adalberto Rodríguez Giavarini, presided.

At the end of the month, the Secretary-General presented a *tour d'horizon* to Council members on the outcome of his trip through a number of Asian countries, focusing particularly on developments relating to the question of East Timor.

The Council also dealt with other questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, such as the situations in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Western Sahara and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo).

In February the Council adopted four resolutions, issued three presidential statements and held 10 formal meetings — one of which was a private meeting — and Council members held informal consultations on 19 occasions.

On five occasions the President made statements to the press on behalf of the Council members on a number of the questions discussed (see below). Following each session of informal consultations, the Presidency held detailed informal briefings for Member States not members of the Council.

The informal working group on documentation and procedures met in order to formalize a proposal made by the Argentine delegation, with a view to enabling members of the Council newly elected by the General Assembly to attend informal consultations as observers one month prior to the beginning of their respective mandates.

Africa

Burundi

In informal consultations on 28 February, Council members were briefed on the situation in Burundi by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, who made specific reference to security matters, humanitarian issues and political developments in Burundi. After indicating that the security situation continued to be precarious, he referred to a meeting between the Ministers of Defence of the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi, at which it had been agreed that security measures on their shared border should be strengthened and that the civilian nature of the refugee camps should be maintained. With respect to the humanitarian situation, he reiterated the Secretary-General's concerns on the policy of maintaining camps for the forced regroupment of civilians. With regard to the political situation, he indicated that the *partenariat* (partnership) between the Government and the Legislative Assembly had developed favourably. Lastly, he outlined the main issues considered at the ninth Arusha Summit, held from 21 to 23 February 2000, in the presence of the facilitator of the Arusha peace process, Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa.

On concluding the informal consultations the President of the Council issued a press statement on behalf of Council members in which, *inter alia*, he reaffirmed their full support for the facilitator, condemned the violence and appealed to the Government of Burundi to dismantle the regroupment camps and give humanitarian organizations unimpeded access to the camps (see below).

Guinea-Bissau

In informal consultations on 23 February, the Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, Samuel Nana-Sinkam, briefed the Council on the situation in that country, taking particular account of the second round of presidential elections held on 14 January 2000. He indicated that the second round of presidential elections had been won by an opposition candidate, Kumba Yala, with over 70 per cent of the vote. He stated that international observers had described the electoral process as orderly and democratic. He said that the new Government, which had taken office on 17 February, had an arduous task ahead of it in terms of post-conflict peace-building, for which it would require assistance from the international community.

Following the informal consultations the President issued a press statement on behalf of the Council members in which, *inter alia*, he indicated that the members of the Council welcomed the swearing-in of the new Constitutional President elected by means of a free and democratic vote and urged the new Government to continue to take measures to consolidate peace, national reconciliation and economic development (see below).

Central African Republic

In informal consultations on 10 February, Council members considered the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) (S/2000/24), which was introduced and updated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi.

The Assistant Secretary-General referred to the withdrawal of MINURCA, whose mandate expired on 15 February, and emphasized that its presence had guaranteed peace and stability in the Central African Republic. He also referred to the political, military and security situation. He made special reference to the

progress made in restructuring the armed forces, particularly the disbandment of the Special Force for the Defence of the Republican Institutions (FORSDIR). He indicated that MINURCA would be replaced by a United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic and called for support from the international community in carrying out the tasks ahead.

At the 4101st meeting of the Council the President read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2000/5) emphasizing the contribution made by MINURCA, commending it for its role in the restoration of peace and security in the Central African Republic, and encouraging the Government to build on the progress made during the presence of MINURCA. Moreover, the Council welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Peace-building Support Office.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In informal consultations on 3 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2000/30) and gave an update of the most recent developments in the country. Council members entrusted the President with issuing a press statement expressing support for the recommendations of the Secretary-General set out in the report, voicing deep concern at the recent massacres in the eastern area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and strongly condemning all human rights violations in the country (see below).

Starting on 9 February the Security Council members held several informal consultations, including at the expert level, in order to consider a draft resolution submitted by the United States delegation on the expansion of MONUC. At those negotiations, the main issues discussed were the inclusion of Security Council resolutions 918 (1994), 1011 (1995) and 1053 (1996) on Rwanda, the disarming of the militias, relations between MONUC and the Joint Military Commission, the protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, the number of personnel required in order for MONUC to fulfil its mandate, the imposition of an arms embargo on armed groups not signatories of the Lusaka Agreement, human rights violations — particularly in the eastern part of the country — and the establishment of a panel

of experts to investigate the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In informal consultations on 16 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported on the deterioration in the situation in the eastern area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly the tensions in North and South Kivu provinces. He also reported on the flow of 10,000 to 15,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo into the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville) as a result of the advance of rebels belonging to the Mouvement pour la libération du Congo towards Banda and South Mookanza.

In informal consultations on 18 February, the Assistant Secretary-General gave an update on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reported on a number of aspects of the mandate of MONUC. On the first issue, he referred to the clashes that had taken place around Ikela, the disturbances in Goma and Bukavu and the violence between Hemas and Lendus in Ituri Province. With regard to the second issue, he indicated that MONUC was basically an observation force, subject to the constraints imposed by the vastness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the lack of infrastructure and the complex military situation there.

The negotiations that began on 9 February ended on 24 February with the unanimous adoption of resolution 1291 (2000), which was introduced as a President's draft. By that resolution, the Security Council extended the mandate of MONUC to 31 August 2000 and authorized its expansion up to 5,537 military personnel, including up to 500 observers, or more. All Council members, including the delegations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Portugal, the latter speaking on behalf of the European Union, made statements at the meeting at which resolution 1291 (2000) was adopted.

Western Sahara

In informal consultations on 24 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bernard Miyet, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on Western Sahara (S/2000/131), summarizing the evolution of the implementation of the settlement plan since its adoption in 1991. All delegations supported the proposal of the Secretary-General to

extend the mandate of MINURSO until 31 May 2000 and to request his Personal Envoy, James A. Baker III, to consult with the parties for the purpose of achieving an early, durable and agreed resolution to their dispute.

On 29 February the Security Council unanimously adopted without debate, as a President's draft, its resolution 1292 (2000) extending the mandate of MINURSO until 31 May 2000 and supporting the task entrusted by the Secretary-General to his Personal Envoy.

Sierra Leone

On 7 February the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations gave an oral report in a public meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Sierra Leone. The main points covered were the overall security situation in the country, the status of deployment of UNAMSIL, the evolution of the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and the humanitarian situation, especially in the northern and eastern regions of the country. The Assistant Secretary-General also referred to the attacks on the civilian population by the rebel forces.

On 7 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1289 (2000) authorizing the expansion of the military component of UNAMSIL up to a maximum of 11,100 troops.

Somalia

In informal consultations on 23 February Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on the situation in Somalia.

The Under-Secretary-General referred in particular to the progress being made regarding the Djibouti peace initiative, as well as the political and humanitarian situation in Somalia. Regarding the Djibouti peace plan, he informed Council members of the steps taken by the President of Djibouti, Omar Guelleh, in the countries of the region; he also indicated that the initiative had been well received by Somali society. Concerning the political and military situation, he said that during January and February incidents of banditry had been reported, as well as confrontations between clans. As to the humanitarian situation, he mentioned the difficult food situation being experienced in the Bay and Bakool regions, and

noted that outbreaks of cholera had been reported in the northern part of the country.

After the conclusion of the informal consultations, the President issued a press statement on behalf of Council members in which, *inter alia*, he expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved towards the Djibouti peace plan and reaffirmed the Council members' commitment to consider it in a constructive spirit in due course. Furthermore, he condemned the attacks against humanitarian workers, called for their safety to be respected and expressed concern at the flow of arms into the country (see below).

Furthermore, on 16 February the President met with the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, at his request. The latter referred to the peace plan for Somalia and delivered two documents, a Plan of Action for the National Peace Conference for Somalia and a progress report on the Djibouti peace initiative, and requested that they be circulated among members of the Council.

Europe

The Balkans

At its 4105th meeting on 28 February, the Council heard an oral report by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Balkans, Carl Bildt, on the search for self-sustaining stability in that region. The Special Envoy said that he considered it essential for all the actors involved to be ready to renew the search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. To that end, he listed four benchmarks, namely, the firm support of the Council for the search for a regional solution, the active participation of the States of the region in achieving that goal, the clear indication that a true solution should meet the minimum requirements of all parties, but the maximum demands of none, and an agreement that was firmly embedded in the context of a broader settlement encompassing the region as a whole.

Cyprus

In informal consultations on 15 February, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto, briefed the Council members on the results of the second round of proximity talks held at Geneva from 31 January to 8 February 2000.

Following the consultations, the President read out a statement to the press on behalf of the Council members commending the continuing commitment shown by the parties to the talks process, welcoming the fact that the talks had been conducted in a positive atmosphere and without preconditions, and encouraging all concerned to continue their efforts towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question (see below).

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

In informal consultations on 10 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations gave an oral report to the members of the Council on the chronological succession of the acts of violence which had occurred in the northern part of Mitrovica beginning on 2 February, after the firing of a rocket at a bus belonging to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and continuing until 5 February. After the consultations, the President read out a press statement on behalf of the Council members in which, *inter alia*, they expressed their profound concern at the deterioration of the security situation in Kosovo, took note of the measures taken by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR to ensure the security of the entire population of Kosovo, and called upon Member States to provide UNMIK with the personnel and financial resources it still required (see below).

At its 4102nd meeting on 16 February, the Council heard an oral report from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in Kosovo, covering the security situation, minorities, UNMIK police, the rule of law, the Kosovo Protection Force, the Joint Interim Administrative Structure, the civil registry and preparations for municipal elections, the humanitarian situation and financing. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council adopted an official communiqué (S/PV.4102).

In informal consultations on 23 February, at the request of a member of the Council, under "Other matters", the consideration of the security situation in Mitrovica continued.

International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

On 3 February, the Office of the President, at his request, met with the President of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Judge Claude Jorda, who discussed, among other topics, certain budgetary difficulties and procedural questions faced by the Tribunal which must be remedied.

Middle East

Iraq

In informal consultations on 7 February, the Council members considered the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1284 (1999) (S/2000/22) and a letter dated 14 January 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Council, submitted pursuant to resolution 1281 (1999) (S/2000/26). The Executive Director of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan, introduced those documents and gave Council members an update on matters relating to his mandate. Having considered those documents, the Council members did not take any action that day.

Furthermore, in informal consultations held on 28 February, the President referred to a letter dated 24 February 2000 from the Secretary-General (S/2000/166), in which, pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1284 (1999), he proposed a mechanism to provide for reasonable expenses related to the Hajj pilgrimage. In a letter dated 1 March 2000 (S/2000/167), under the Presidency of Bangladesh, the Council authorized the Secretary-General to proceed in accordance with his proposal.

Asia

East Timor

At its 4097th meeting on 3 February 2000, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (S/2000/53). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Transitional Administrator in East Timor, Sergio Vieira de Mello, introduced the report and briefed the Security Council on the situation in East Timor.

In his introduction, the Special Representative described the evolution of the humanitarian situation in East Timor; recent events in the area of security and public safety; the refugee problem; the establishment of consultative mechanisms to ensure the full participation of the East Timorese in the decision-making process; matters relating to governance, public administration, the administration of justice, public finance and the economy in general; the transfer of functions from the International Force in East Timor to UNTAET; relations between Indonesia and East Timor; and the submission of reports by the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor and the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in East Timor.

With regard to violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in East Timor, by a letter dated 18 February 2000 (S/2000/137), the President replied to the letter of the Secretary-General dated 31 January 2000 transmitting the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor (S/2000/59). In his letter, the President informed the Secretary-General that that report had been brought to the attention of the Council members and transmitted the members' shared points of view regarding its contents.

In informal consultations held on 29 February, the Secretary-General presented a *tour d'horizon* on his visit to various countries in South-East Asia during that month. With respect to East Timor, the Secretary-General stated that the security emergency had been almost completely resolved and that the primary challenge for the future would be to rebuild the basic education, health, communications and housing infrastructures. He noted, *inter alia*, that it had been encouraging to observe the degree of political maturity of the Timorese leaders and the improvement in relations between East Timor and Indonesia. Furthermore, he had discussed the refugee problem in East Timor in detail with the Indonesian authorities and he had offered them United Nations assistance in investigating violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. In conclusion, he said that UNTAET was working with the Timorese leaders to establish objective criteria for deciding when East Timor would achieve full independence.

Other matters

Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones

At its 4100th meeting on 9 February, the Security Council held an open debate on the protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina presided. Participants in the session included the Deputy Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Catherine Bertini, and the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Sylvie Junod.

That meeting resulted in the adoption of a presidential statement (S/PRST/2000/4) reflecting concern at the situations that United Nations and associated personnel and humanitarian personnel were compelled to face in the course of their work and identifying measures to improve their safety.

The choice of this topic reflects Argentina's recognition of the selfless work carried out by United Nations and associated personnel and humanitarian personnel and the importance attached by the Security Council to the protection of their safety in conflict zones.

Admission of new Members: application of Tuvalu for admission to membership in the United Nations

At its 4103rd meeting on 17 February, the Security Council, having considered the report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of Tuvalu for admission to membership in the United Nations (S/2000/5), adopted resolution 1290 (2000), recommending to the General Assembly that Tuvalu be admitted to the United Nations, by 14 votes in favour, with one abstention (China). Following the adoption of the resolution, the President, on behalf of the Council, made a statement (S/PRST/2000/6) congratulating the Government of Tuvalu.

Working Group of the Security Council concerning documentation and other procedural questions

In November 1999, the delegation of Argentina had proposed that new members of the Security Council elected for the term of 2000-2001 by the General Assembly should be invited to observe the informal consultations of the Council members for a period of one month immediately preceding their term of membership.

This proposal was adopted by the members of the Council and allowed new members to acquaint themselves in advance with the Council members' customary procedures and practice at such meetings. The delegation of Argentina therefore proposed, through a draft note by the President, that this mechanism should be formalized with a view to its continued implementation in the future.

At a meeting on 22 February, the informal Working Group of the Security Council concerning the Council's documentation and other procedural questions considered this proposal and recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft note on the matter by the President of the Council. This draft was adopted on 28 February as a note by the President (S/2000/155).

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

Democratic Republic of the Congo (3 February 2000)

Security Council members considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and there was general support for its recommendations.

Council members expressed their deep concern about reports of recent massacres in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and expressed their condemnation for all human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(10 February 2000)**

Security Council members heard a briefing by the Secretariat regarding the recent outbreaks of violence in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Council members expressed their profound concern at the deterioration of the security situation there.

Council members condemned all acts of violence and demanded their immediate cessation.

Council members called upon all parties concerned to exercise the utmost restraint and tolerance.

Council members reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1244 (1999) in its entirety.

Council members noted the measures taken by UNMIK and KFOR in good cooperation to ensure adequate security of the entire population of Kosovo and supported their ongoing intensified efforts to this end. They called upon Member States to provide UNMIK with the personnel and financial resources it still requires.

The Council will continue to follow the situation closely.

Cyprus (15 February 2000)

Security Council members heard a briefing by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto, on the proximity talks held at Geneva from 31 January to 8 February. This was the continuation of an ongoing process of talks launched by the Secretary-General from 3 to 14 December 1999, preparing the ground for negotiation of a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. This followed the Council's request to the Secretary-General last June to invite the leaders of the two sides to comprehensive settlement negotiations in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. This is a matter which the Security Council continues to follow with the closest interest. The Council has stated repeatedly that the status quo in Cyprus is unacceptable.

Council members commended the continuing commitment shown by the parties to the talks process, and welcomed the fact that the talks had been conducted in a positive atmosphere and without

preconditions. They encouraged all concerned to continue their efforts towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question.

Council members paid tribute in particular to the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser and conveyed to them the Council's full support in this important endeavour.

Council members looked forward to the resumption of the talks in New York on 23 May and expressed the hope that progress can soon be made on substantive issues.

Guinea-Bissau (23 February 2000)

Security Council members have been briefed by the Secretary-General's Representative for Guinea-Bissau, Samuel Nana-Sinkam, who updated Council members on the current situation in the country.

Council members commended Mr. Nana-Sinkam and those personnel associated with the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, as well as United Nations agencies, in particular UNDP, ECOWAS, ECOMOG and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries for their efforts to promote peace and national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau.

Council members welcomed the swearing in of President Kumba Yala on 17 February and the return of constitutional and democratic order to Guinea-Bissau following the holding of free and fair legislative and presidential elections. Council members appealed to all parties in Guinea-Bissau to abide by and to support the results of the elections.

Council members encouraged all parties in Guinea-Bissau to work closely together in a spirit of tolerance to strengthen democratic values, to protect the rule of law and to guarantee the protection of human rights.

Council members expressed support for the newly elected Government in Guinea-Bissau and encouraged the new authorities to develop and implement programmes designed to consolidate peace, national reconciliation and economic development.

Council members appealed to the international community to provide support and assistance as soon as possible to the recently elected Government in Guinea-Bissau.

Somalia (23 February 2000)

Security Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on the situation in Somalia.

Council members took note with satisfaction of the progress being made by Djibouti in elaborating its peace plan for Somalia and reaffirmed their commitment to reaching a comprehensive settlement of the situation, bearing in mind the respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia.

Council members expect the peace plan to be considered by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Standing Committee and the Organization of African Unity in March.

Council members are ready to consider the peace plan in a constructive spirit in due course.

Council members condemn the attacks against United Nations personnel and other humanitarian workers in Somalia and called for their safety to be respected.

Council members expressed their concern at the continuing flow of arms into Somalia in violation of the Security Council resolution establishing an arms embargo. The sanctions Committee will consider this matter. Council members also condemned those supplying arms to Somalia.

Burundi (28 February 2000)

Security Council members heard today a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, on Burundi.

Council members reiterated their strong support for the facilitator of the Arusha process, Nelson Mandela, and urged all parties to fully cooperate with him in order to reach a peace agreement as soon as possible.

Council members strongly condemned the continuation of violence and called on all armed groups to cease their military actions and to join the political process.

Council members urged the Government of Burundi to proceed to a speedy dismantling of all regroupment camps and to abandon the policy of forced regroupment.

Council members urged the Government of Burundi to allow humanitarian organizations full and unhindered access to the regrouped populations as well as to fully guarantee the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel and humanitarian workers, and urged that the perpetrators of the Rutana incidents on 12 October 1999 be effectively brought to justice.

Council members called upon international donors to generously fund the 2000 consolidated inter-agency appeal for Burundi and underlined the need to resume substantial economic and development assistance with due regard for security conditions.



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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**General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 50**

**The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for
international peace and security**

**Security Council
Fifty-fifth year**

**Identical letters dated 20 July 2000 from the Permanent
Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter dated 20 July 2000 from A. Abdullah, the acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, addressed to you concerning the developments in Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 50, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan **Farhâdi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the identical letters dated 20 July 2000 from the
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the
Security Council**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan presents its compliments to H. E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to communicate the following points about the problem of Afghanistan:

--Chapter I--

On the Renewed Summer Offensive Launched by the Taliban-Pakistan-bin Laden Axis

--A--

The United Nations was duly informed through the letter dated 27 June 2000 of the reports on the arrival of more than 2,000 fresh recruits including Pakistan's Army regulars to the eastern Province of Jalalabad from Pakistan and large-scale preparations by Pakistan and the Taliban mercenaries for subsequent renewed offensives of July 1 and July 9, 2000 by the Taliban mercenaries, consignments of Pakistan's Armed Forces and members of the bin Laden Brigade, launched against the positions of the Armed Forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the Shamali Plains, north of Kabul.

July 1 Offensive: The first offensive, aimed to be expanded to the Sâlang Highway and Ghôrband and Nijrâb Districts, was repulsed, while the attackers suffered as many as 500 dead or wounded. The Government took as many as 40 Taliban mercenaries captive, presently in its custody.

Post-fighting reports by the Intelligence sources of the Government indicated that more than 200 Taliban dead bodies were transferred to Kabul, while many Pakistanis were taken to Pakistan. Meanwhile, many of the wounded opposition fighters were taken to the 'Taxila' and the 'Fowji' (<<Army>>) Foundation Hospitals in Peshawar, Pakistan.

During the operation, the Taliban conducted air sorties, leading to the death of many innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian sites.

July 9 Offensive: On July 9, 2000, the Taliban-Pakistan-bin Laden axis launched yet another offensive targeting Khalazay Village north of Kabul. At least 6,000 opposition troops including Pakistani military personnel, Pakistani students from religious schools,

Arabs and Taliban were involved in the operation, who despite limited initial gains were forced out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The Taliban casualties in this operation included 200 dead and over 300 wounded. Reports confirmed the destruction of 14 opposition tanks and 18 trucks, still laying in the area.

The indiscriminate Taliban aerial bombardment of civilian sites in the City of Chârikâr and Villages of Khalâzay, Rubât and Chaikal in the Shamâli Plains this time, however, left 28 civilians dead, 50 wounded and thousands internally displaced.

Ironically, after the defeat of the opposition, its mouthpieces launched a campaign of disinformation in an attempt to put the blame of the renewed fighting on the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The campaign interestingly gave bogus assurances by the Taliban not to engage in any further fighting.

With the elaborate details of the latest rounds of fighting, particularly of the use of conventional tactics, command and control of battles and use of heavy artillery—not familiar to the Taliban—as well as intercepted radio transmissions and massive logistical support which prove a progressive involvement of Pakistan Army personnel, it was a matter of dismay that the Security Council stopped short of at least condemning the attacks.

It may be recalled that last year's 'Summer Offensive' by the Taliban-Pakistan-bin Laden axis, despite our early warnings to the Security Council, led to the great humanitarian tragedy in which hundreds of thousands of the Shamâli inhabitants were driven out of their homes, who sought refuge in the Panjshir Valley. In light of that, it shall be reminded that primarily an opposition defeat in the battlefields thus far has prevented recurrence of such a tragic situation, one which cannot be absolutely thwarted in the future, should the renewed offensives not be condemned and measures aimed at their prevention not taken.

--B--

1. At the present, Pakistan and its Taliban mercenaries are busy building up for yet another round of fighting, projected to begin any time soon.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan earnestly appeals to the United Nations to adopt immediate measures aimed at preventing further Taliban-Pakistan-bin Laden attacks. The Islamic State of Afghanistan expects of the Security Council to seriously condemn the renewed 'Summer Offensive' and further preparations by the Taliban-Pakistan-bin Laden axis.

2. The Islamic State of Afghanistan further appeals to the Security Council to mandate the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSM) to dispatch an investigation team to Afghanistan to verify and report to the Security Council on the

presence of Pakistani armed men and Arab fighters—working in collusion with the Taliban.

--C--

Adhering to its solemn commitment made during the two rounds of indirect talks sponsored by the Organization of Islamic Conference in March and May 2000 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia—rejected categorically by the Taliban—the Islamic State of Afghanistan reiterates its firm position that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and hereby declares once again its genuine desire and readiness for the cessation of armed conflict, a cease-fire and engagement in direct negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations.

--Chapter II--

On the remarks by the Pakistani Chief Executive and the Search for 'Lebensraum' by the Military Junta

--A--

The main Pakistani position until early May 2000 suggested that Pakistan was not intervening in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Pakistani diplomats and officials claimed Pakistan maintained contacts with both parties to the conflict.

--B--

However, Pakistan's NNI news agency reported on Thursday, May 25, 2000 that General Pervez Musharraf claimed Pakistan's pro-Taliban policy "in accordance with Pakistan national interest."

Advocating that Pakhtoons (Pashtuns) should be on the side of Pakistan, the General was quoted as saying, "We have a national security interest, both demographic and geographic." He further stated that in the realization of this security interest, "Pakhtoons should be on our side and they (Pakhtoons) are represented by Taliban."

General Musharraf reiterated, once again, those points in a statement in the Pakistani Institute of International Affairs on June 23, 2000. "With Afghanistan, one has to understand Pakistan national security concerns and must be clear to everyone, though not done earlier. No country in the world can force any other country to give up its national security interest," the General was quoted as saying.

The confession by the Pakistani military ruler marked a totally new perspective in the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

--C--

The Pakistani military junta, unleashing this fresh political campaign under the pretext of "national security interest" at the cost of sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan. This is a flagrant violation of recognized international norms and principles and in clear contempt to the UN Charter. Pakistan has claimed the right to impose a certain political system through an ethnic group in its neighboring country.

This new method bears resemblance to the ideology pursued by the Nazis during WWII, who under the scheme of "lebensraum" justified their expansionism and hegemony at the price of millions killed and the invasion of adjacent and faraway territories.

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The Islamic State of Afghanistan, in light of the astonishing statements by General Pervez Musharraf, who through explicit articulation of the 'reasons' for the continued Pakistani military backing of the Taliban seeks Afghanistan's subjugation, would like to put the following in perspective:

1. The remarks, for the first time, bring to light the Pakistani junta's long-pursued hegemonic agenda aimed at turning Afghanistan into a subservient State and in fact a hub of terrorism, extremism, cultivation and trafficking of drugs, from which the Pakistani world-known corrupt military has perpetually benefited.
2. The Islamic State of Afghanistan strongly condemns the flagrant interventionist and ethnically provocative remarks on Afghanistan by the chief of Pakistani junta General Pervez Musharraf, which clearly aim to incite hatred among different ethnic groups of Afghanistan.
3. General Pervez Musharraf has to realize that his statements of May 25 and June 23, 2000 constitute a mistake and a confession, which complements the Pakistani historic blunder, revealing the Junta's expansionist goals in Afghanistan. The General's comments are neither beneficial to the peace and security of Pakistan or Afghanistan, nor the region. It is time that Pakistan's "Chief Executive," the military junta and its officials steered their country away from hegemonistic adventures they have embarked upon in Afghanistan.
4. The demagogic invoking of the so-called "Pakistan's security interests"--- in reality at the cost of sovereignty, independence and national unity of Afghanistan --- blatantly referred to by the Pakistani junta chief, reminds of the all-along hypocritical, deceitful and lip-serving attitude of the Pakistani regime toward the UN peace process and toward the project of convening a Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) in Afghanistan. The Pakistani Junta opposes the formation of a the "broad-based, fully representative and multi-ethnic government" mainstream of the process in Afghanistan , in a gross contradiction to Pakistan's acclaimed backing of the UN peace process in Afghanistan.
5. At a time when the Pakistani military regime can no longer stealthily mask its evident military involvement in Afghanistan camouflaged as the Taliban, and while the world community is getting ever-more focused on the Pakistani regime's creeping operation of narco-terrorism in Afghanistan, the views expressed by Mr. Musharraf on the "Islamabad demographic and geographic interests in Afghanistan through the Taliban as the representatives of the Pashtuns of Afghanistan" are a premeditated attempt to legitimize Pakistan's outright aggression in and domination of Afghanistan.



6. The remarks, irresponsible, hostile and yet grotesque, made by a military dictator, do not represent in any way the true aspirations of the Pakistani nation, having enjoyed historical fraternity and good neighborliness with the people of Afghanistan.

7. General Musharraf's statements are based on an erroneous perception of Afghanistan and a grotesquely and legendarily false 'statistics' of ethnic groups. Historically, Afghanistan has been a country of an ethnic mosaic, having fraternally and peacefully lived in a balanced coexistence for centuries.

8. The people of Afghanistan are aware that promotion of ethnic cleansing of Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras and other non-Pashtun groups is the result of provocations by the government of Pakistan and the ISI, committed under the guise of realizing Pashtun domination throughout Afghanistan.

9. Statements by General Musharraf have become subject to strong condemnation by the people of Afghanistan, including the Pashtuns and prominent Pashtun leaders.

10. The segment of the Taliban who are Afghan nationals have been brainwashed by the Pakistani military intelligence services (ISI) in such a manner so as to lack complete historical knowledge of Afghanistan, and hence to act counter to the religious, historic and ethnic traditions of their countrymen. Hence, their behavior—like an alien group—categorizes them as void of Afghan culture.

11. Pakistan's administrations have continuously denied local Pashtuns their fundamental rights in Pakistan. But now, the current administration unjustifiably and strangely claims itself to only protect the Pashtuns. Contrarily, even the Pashtuns in Pakistan have not had the right to name their own land.

12. The Islamic State of Afghanistan, backed by the undying resolve and vigilance of the people and of the Armed Forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan will continue to stand firm in defending the sovereignty, independence and national unity of Afghanistan against Pakistani aggression, carried out by armed Pakistani groups siding with the mercenary Taliban bands.

13. The Islamic State of Afghanistan calls upon the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the entire international community to seriously take note of the hegemonistic remarks by the Pakistani military ruler. These words indicate Pakistan's professed precepts in dealing with the situation in Afghanistan and the subsequent dire regional and international threats and consequences.



--Chapter III--

On the Heightened Pakistani-Taliban Terrorist Activities, their Perilous Impact on the Safety and Security of the Afghan People, and Implications for Regional Peace and Stability

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Less than 2 years after exposing the people of Afghanistan and the Afghan soil to an American missile strike launched back in August 1998 against terrorist training camps operated by international terrorists, in which more than a dozen of Pakistani terrorists were killed, the Pakistani-Taliban nexus has yet again provoked further threat of possible strikes by the Russian Federation, as an act of reprisal against new targets in the Pakistani-Taliban occupied territories of Afghanistan.

It is important to remember that terrorist training camps operating from the Taliban-held territories of Afghanistan whose dismantling has been repeatedly called for by the United Nations and the entire international community, have been established by the Government of Pakistan through the Taliban mercenaries and other extremist networks, who continue to utilize these territories as a ground for terrorist training, sheltering, planning and dispatching of elements seeking hostile acts against countries of the region and beyond, under the guise of Islam mainly in pursuit of Pakistani hegemonistic objectives.

For the past two years, the United Nations Security Council in its resolutions 1214 of 8 December 1998 and 1267 of 15 October 1999, unanimously adopted, has explicitly demanded the Taliban mercenaries and its foreign collaborator, Pakistan, to refrain from sheltering, supporting and training of terrorists and planning of terrorist acts from the Afghanistan soil against other countries, and to extradite to the requesting States those individuals indicted for committing international acts of terrorism.

The international community has a fresh memory of the involvement of Pakistan and of its mercenaries, the Taliban, in the Kargil operation in India. Although the operation earned the Pakistani Government an outright defeat and a bone-chilling humiliation, the Pakistani military intelligence (ISI) managed to redirect those combined recruits to subsequent operations in Afghanistan. The latter operation, however, then came to be best known for the scorched-earth practice and forcible displacement of some 200,000 civilians, north of Kabul by the same groups. Dozens of those invaders were held captive by the Islamic State of Afghanistan and still remain in its captivity.

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Remaining highly alarmed by the latest deterioration of the situation in and around Afghanistan, directly resulting from Pakistani-sponsored policy of military occupation and training of terrorists, the Islamic State of Afghanistan wishes to put the following in perspective:

1. The people of Afghanistan have become victimized by terrorism and by the activities of elements affiliated with an array of international terrorist organizations from Southeast Asia to South Asia and the Middle East, who all continue to be recruited by the Government of Pakistan through its military intelligence, the ISI. All of this is done for waging what Pakistanis extremists call "Jihād" or a holy war against States within and outside the region. Pakistan also remains as the sole origin of arming and equipping of the stretching columns of terrorists coming from around the globe to Pakistan, who then are dispatched to Afghanistan for military training and deployment to locations in part other than the front lines within Afghanistan. Pakistan is providing ground and air support, petroleum and other logistical support to the Pakistani-Taliban-bin Laden army, the latest developments.

2. The Islamic State of Afghanistan strongly condemns the outrageous ceaseless Pakistan adventurist activities in Afghanistan, which have put the life and property of the innocent civilian people of Afghanistan at grave risk of reprisal acts by third States threatened. It shall be reminded in this context, that provocation of any reprisal act by a third State on Afghanistan and thereupon the potential damaging results on the life and property of the people of Afghanistan would establish Pakistan as entirely responsible.

3. The Islamic State of Afghanistan remains convinced upon the inadmissibility of the use of the Afghan soil for waging war and engaging in hostile acts against the security and stability of third States in the region and beyond. However, it also believes that air strikes or aerial bombardment of terrorist training camps, given the inefficiency of the August 1998 cruise missile raids, will not eliminate terrorist activities.

4. The Islamic State of Afghanistan reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Islamic State of Afghanistan believes it is high time that the UN Security Council—in accordance with relevant Resolutions—shall undertake effective measures against Pakistan, which is the prime source of establishing terrorist training camps and terrorist activities in the Taliban-held territories of Afghanistan for the purposes of advancing Pakistan's geopolitical interests in South and Central Asia, and beyond. The Islamic State of Afghanistan also calls upon the Security Council to take further drastic measures against the Taliban mercenaries to curb their terrorist activities.

--Chapter IV--

On the OIC-sponsored Jeddah Peace Talks

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Responding positively to the proposal for peace talks made by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Islamic State of Afghanistan on 8 March, 2000, attended in good faith the two-day peace talks, the first in a series, hosted by the OIC in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which were also attended by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Hon. Francesc Vendrell.

The OIC team, holding separate meetings and discussing different issues with the two parties in Jeddah, laid special emphasis on the need for observing a moratorium on the fighting, citing the sanctity and importance of the approaching advent of the Hajj and of

the Eid al-Adhâ. The suggestion, though not initialed, was embraced with no preconditions by the delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

It is worth reminding that the Jeddah meeting came only days after the Taliban mercenaries had launched a renewed offensive, during which the Security Council on March 3, 2000 expressed its dismay and recalled the repeated demands by the Council that the Afghan parties cease the fighting and resume negotiations under UN auspices without delay and preconditions in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Against this background, however, the Taliban mercenaries, evidently commissioned by the ruling Pakistani ISI, appear to have had the intention of pursuing their military option, for their unabated aerial and ground attacks on the Government-held territories have continued, to date.

Below is a brief record of the Pakistani-Taliban military operations which have taken place after the Jeddah meeting:

--10 March, 6:00a.m. Afghanistan standard time (AST):

Pakistani-Taliban forces attacked Northern Sâlang. The attack was repulsed within the course of a two-hour battle. Attackers sustained 60 casualties and left behind 7 mortal remains;

--11 March, 4:00a.m. AST:

The Pakistani-Taliban troops launched a multi-pronged attack on Surkh-Sang and Bajgâh areas around Dara-i-Suff, south-west of the province of Samangan, making some advances. The Government forces repelled the mercenaries from the areas later in the day;

--13 March, 7-9a.m. AST:

An attack by the Pakistani-Taliban on Ailam Bourka was pushed back;

--March 14, 7-4:30p.m. AST:

The Pakistani-Taliban mounted once again a cohesive attack on Northern Sâlang, infiltrating the front lines. The offensive was forcefully repulsed later the same day.

The on-going intermittent onslaughts by the Pakistani-Taliban are believed to herald an up-coming all out offensive by the Pakistani-Taliban, according to a battle plan discussed on March 10, 2000 at a joint meeting between the Taliban field commanders and a visiting senior Pakistani military corps commander in the Kunduz province, intercepted by the State security services.

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The second round of peace talks between the representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Taliban militia, sponsored by the Organization of the Islamic

Conference, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from May 7-10, 2000, ended without any major breakthrough.

The three-day talks, also attended by Mr. Francesc Vendrell, UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, came amidst widespread reports of preparations by the Pakistani-Taliban mercenaries to launch annual major summer offensives. However, proceeding from the high interest in a peaceful solution of the conflict, the Islamic State of Afghanistan took part in the talks in good faith.

The talks were attended by the Islamic State of Afghanistan with the earnest desire of addressing substantial issues, inter alia, the immediate withdrawal of Pakistani military and paramilitary personnel and all other armed foreign nationals and "volunteers" and the formation of a broad-based, multi-ethnic, and fully representative government, as called for by numerous UN GA and SC resolutions. Yet, dismayingly, the issues of abandoning large-scale military offensives, refraining from targeting civilians and guaranteeing free movement of humanitarian assistance, among the four agenda items tabled in Jeddah, were rejected by the Taliban militia, who only agreed to one, namely the exchange of POWs, to be subsequently implemented under joint supervision of a committee composed of the ICRC, the OIC, Iran and Pakistan.

Reacting to the disappointing posturing of the Taliban in the talks, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, for the sake of the record, expressed concerns, among many, on the continued Taliban intransigence, the militia's resort to warfare, and the mercenaries' aim of further targeting innocent civilians.

While wishing for a peaceful solution to the conflict, the Islamic State of Afghanistan remains convinced that the Taliban are still adamant on pursuing a military option, which unveiled quickly in subsequent events.

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On May 11, 2000, one day after the completion of the second round of the OIC Jeddah talks, eyewitness reports reaching the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan revealed that the Taliban prison authorities rounded up as many as 198 hostages imprisoned, predominantly young Uzbek and Hazâra men, from their prison cells in Mazâr, Samangân and Sheberghân, and after having brutally murdered them, buried the hostages in newly dug mass graves, identified to be in the following locations: Tapa-é-Qul Mohammad (a hill) on the outskirts of Mazâr; the mountain ranges of Koh-é-Cheghet in the Province of Samangan; and in the outskirts of Rubâtak Pass in the Province of Samangân.

--Chapter V--

On Loya Jirga or 'the Traditional Grand Assembly' as a Political Solution to the Conflict in Afghanistan

The Islamic State of Afghanistan is aware of the political difficulties involving general elections as a means of realizing the will of the people under the prevailing difficult

circumstances. Duly, the Islamic State of Afghanistan considers the Lōya Jirga (Grand Assembly) as one of the viable options in overcoming the ominous present-day Afghan crisis. As such the Islamic State of Afghanistan fully welcomes the Lōya Jirga and is willing to render its utmost cooperation toward its convening.

i. Internal Aspects:

It is crucial to realize that 'Émirate' as an institution negates—either in principle or concept—a genuine Lōya Jirga, and therefore, is doomed to an inevitable slap of bold rejection by the entire Afghan nation. Possessing powers above the law by the virtue of theocratic despotism, through issuance of immediate decrees, which seek to nullify democratic and administrative institutions would absolutely counter the notion of a representative government. Mindful of this, the Islamic State of Afghanistan would continue to cast off the notion of 'Émirate' as unfitting for the Afghan people. Only the Pakistani government has practically recognized the theocratic 'Émirate' and the title of Mullāh Omar as the Amir-ul-Momineen (the Commander of the Faithful).

ii. External Aspects:

Security, by far, is the most important pre-requisite for the convening of the Lōya Jirga. Hence, each and every armed foreign national, including those called 'volunteers', members of different foreign organizations and groups, maintaining direct or covert links to a foreign army, are to leave Afghanistan at once, which would pave the way for the convening of the Lōya Jirga.

iii. Terms of the Lōya Jirga:

An acceptable representative platform is to be established and agreed upon by various segments of the Afghan society.

The Lōya Jirga has to be convened inside Afghanistan.

There is no absolute ethnic majority in Afghanistan. Hence, all major ethnic groups including the Hazāras, the Pashtuns, the Uzbeks and the Tājiks must be justly and equitably represented in all institutions and governmental bodies. (This however, is not to be construed as either preclusion and or exclusion of other groups including the Turkmen, the Balūchis, the Nooristānis and others.)

iv. The Loya Jirga needs to serve two purposes:

Primarily, the aim is to tackle the present-day Afghan crisis through the establishment of a transitional fully-representative, multi-ethnic and broad-based government, in line



with the wishes of the Afghan people, under the supervision of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

2. Secondly, a mandate must be foreseen within multilateral agreements on the convening of the Lōya Jirga for the enactment of a Constitution by the coming Lōya Jirga, which, inter alia, shall include the indispensable 'Principle of Delegation of Authority to Local Administrations.' General and Local elections, conducive to forming a government to replace the transitional setup, will have to be addressed within a clear-cut time-bound framework.

--Chapter VI--

On Explosions in Taliban-held territories of Afghanistan

1. On 10 July and on 17 July 2000, two explosions occurred at the site of the Pakistani Embassy and the diplomatic residence in Kabul. These were preceded by explosions of military depôts in Khair-Khāna and Maidān-Shahr.

Since the aforementioned sites are under complete guard of Taliban soldiers, the reason for their occurrence must be sought in internal rivalry and division among Taliban ranks.

Pakistan is the only country in the world which maintains an active 'diplomatic' mission in Kabul. There is the possibility of plots by the ISI and some Taliban aimed at provoking sympathy in the Pakistani public opinion in favor of this 'mission.'

2. Contrary to Taliban propaganda, the Islamic State of Afghanistan never has and never will resort to such acts of terror.



(Signed) Dr. A. Abdullāh
Acting Foreign Minister

**Security Council**

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19 July 2000

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**Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the Security Council**

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a protest over the circulation of the "Resolution on the protection of rights and interests of the Republic of Montenegro and its citizens" as a document of the Security Council at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations on 11 July 2000 (S/2000/679).

The circulation of the "Resolution" by the Security Council constitutes gross interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a sovereign and independent State. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia has no right whatsoever to circulate a paper of Montenegro as a document of the Security Council. The arrogation of the right is tantamount to the support for separatist forces in Montenegro and is contrary to the will of the citizens of this constituent Republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It transcends the competence of the Security Council and amounts to a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

The introduction of the practice and the tolerance of the activities, aimed at overt interference in internal affairs of independent States and at their dismemberment in flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, will have harmful consequences for the United Nations and overall international relations.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls upon the Security Council to reject and return the letter to its sender, as it contravenes its procedure and practice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav Jovanović
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

